

Food PAC Minutes – October 5, 2016

Meeting focus: Food as part of plans

1. Green Network Plan
2. Sustainability Plan

Introductions and Updates

- December Food PAC: Dec 7, B-More Kitchen at 5604 York Road, POTLUCK! Everyone bring a dish to share and invite others, including city residents and folks interested in food.
- B'More Healthy Communities for Kids: Intervention trial in 28 neighborhoods surrounding a rec center in Baltimore, half of the neighborhoods worked to improve healthy food access in corner stores, worked in rec centers; post intervention evaluation currently; ongoing projects include depth of stock readiness among small store owners (they're not ready nor aware); grants in the "hopper" including one aimed at implementing mentoring youth through urban farms; uber-like app to deliver food from wholesalers/distributors
- Center for a Livable Future (CLF): Food System Lab
- CLF HFAI: HFAI data collection finished, analyzing and moving forward on
- New Roots IRC: 30 beds feed 156 refugees, expanding to 50 beds → 256 individuals, grant with mental health focus
- Civic Works Real Food Farms: growing vegetables!
- Baltimarket – Baltimore City Health Department
- The Institute for Integrative Health: Carter Elementary, looking for partners
- BCHD Aging and Care
- Maryland Farmers Market Association (MDFMA): Farmers Market season winding down, continuing with Maryland Market Money budgeted funds available, promotion around farmers markets especially for those with def nutrition benefits
- CLF/Operation Reach Out Southwest (Joyce Smith)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Sustainability Commission
- Baltimore City Councilman James Craft
- Abell Foundation
- Baltimore Office of Sustainability (BOS)
- Maryland Hunger Solutions: Fighting hunger in MD conference was successful, afterschool meal social media blitz around Halloween
- Farmers Market Bazaar/BOPA: local food festival
- University of Maryland Extension: new employee – Extension educator for Urban Ag
- Baltimore Partnership to End Childhood Hunger: CEP fighting for in Annapolis – continue to offer free breakfast and free lunch; targeted SNAP outreach to schools with high Spanish speaking populations, looking for partners
- Marcus White: aspiring Urban Farmer
- BCHD Virtual Supermarket
- Maryland Food Bank: Kicked off school pantry
- CRS Farmer to Farmer: Bruce White - here to learn about urban ag, works in East Africa

- Baltimore Food Policy Initiative: Depth of Stock requirements are going to be increased, final requirements release in December; Transportation – the Central MD Transportation Alliance analyzed Blink bus system and found that there is little change related to food access overall, no net gain
- Movable Feast: Executive Director 4 weeks new
- Baltimore Orchard Project: plant with communities and allow them to learn and grow, newcomers; youth education coordinator and artist in residence

Presentations

1. Sustainability Plan (Holly)
 - a. Social; Economic; People, Prosperity, Planet
 - b. 2009 plan – 7 key chapters
 - i. Greening Goal #2 r/t food
 - c. Looking for updated plan
- Community engagement needs equity lens – getting perspectives from all the voices in the community; want to see this representation in the input to this plan
- Food access and FD mapping – 23% at or below poverty level
- Engagement process: resident engagement and institutional engagement
- 600 surveys inputted so far
- Next phase: issue based groups
 - Food PAC – food issue based group (growth to access)
- Red sections – Food PAC is leading the effort: Urban Farms, Food and Nutrition
- Food is integrated into so many areas – Yellow sections: Housing, Transportation, Good Schools, Community Preparedness, Emergency prevention and response, local business
 - Goal to see food linked in multiple sectors
- Key strategies of 2009 plan – food was included
 - Baltimore was one of the first
 - A lot of cities have adopted food plans or food charters
- Food plans and sustainability plans including food → growing number of cities, states including charters
- Plans have key components (Seattle Example is comprehensive and simple)
 - Healthy Food for All
 - Grow Local
 - Strengthen the Local Economy
 - Prevent Waste
- 2009 plan – hard to note matrix and indicators, hard to measure
 - Need to look at indicators and components of the plan which can be measured at an ongoing basis
- Adapting from Seattle and other cities
 - Are we missing sections? What subjects do we need to think about?
 - Starting the conversation but will not finish today
- This is one of the first meetings to discuss the Sustainability Plan with organizations and small groups
- Hope to get ongoing feedback while we draft the food section of the plan

- Next steps
 - Volunteer to review draft plans
 - Food PAC Look at food section, other sections
 - Signup to get food plan updates
- Anne Draddy
 - Oct 26 forum
 - Initial feedback
 - Entertainment
 - Food
- Will address questions in breakout session

Green Network Plan (Amy)

- Existing City Greenspace Network
 - Through BOS – created the growing green initiative – looking at greening of vacant land
 - Better tools for growing vacant properties
 - Started working with communities on various greening projects throughout Baltimore
 - Expanse of vacancies → widespread problem in portions of the city
 - Need to see what the barriers and possibilities are at looking at this as a systemic issue
 - Also looking at tree canopies, streams, etc. and areas with more vacancies have less green space
 - How can we add temporary and permanent greening opportunities to communities
- Green network plan opportunity
 - Create a vision for transforming vacant and abandoned properties
 - Provide a blueprint for how communities would like to see vacant properties used for greening, redevelopment
 - Opportunities to coordinate with other partners
- Partners – number of partners, leadership team, advisory teams, including existing city initiatives, plans and projects which can be built from to build green network plan
- Examples of other cities green spaces to see new ideas for Baltimore
- Outcomes
 - Vision plan – where are important areas to look for greening opportunities? Connections to make between neighborhoods? “Visual Glossary”
 - Focus area plans – working with communities at three different areas, not property specific but general citywide plans; identify improvements; tie to demo and redevelopment recommendations; influence project core funding
 - Develop short and long term recommendations for actionable plans
 - Initial pilot projects
 - Funding, financing, maintenance
 - Implementation – how we acquire and manage land, manage property, how it is maintained from city and partner standpoint – improve processes and expand resources
 - Implementation Scope and Process

- Develop strategies for longer term issues – management, phasing and maintenance related to implementation
- Goals
 - Framework
 - 3 Goals Themes
 - Environment and ecology
 - Economic opportunity
 - Quality of life and connectivity
- Sub-Committees
 - Outreach and Engagement – are we reaching as many people as we can and the people we should reach?
 - Land Use and Community Planning – developing plans with communities
 - Funding and Financing – sources and mechanisms in the city now, other options
 - Implementation – short term (pilot projects) and long term
- Outreach and engagement
 - Citywide public meetings
 - Focus area charrettes
 - Draft Plan comment period
- Focus Area Plans
 - East
 - S Clifton Park
 - Broadway East
 - West
 - Sandtown Winchester
 - Harlem Park
 - Southeast
 - Shipley
- Timeline
 - Currently in prioritization phase to meet the most goals with greening, what are the best opportunities to meet a range of goals
 - Goals: Spring deadline
- Thoughts on Food in workshop discussion
 - Locations to look at
 - Policy issues related to land tenure/urban agriculture

Other Food PAC opportunities

- Form to fill out for updates: <https://goo.gl/forms/jlPmvKRR3Yw3U7kW2>
- Facebook group for networking: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1635930333286704/>

Workshop discussions

- Goal to provide networking opportunities on the spot
- If you have interest in hosting a table at a Food PAC let Alice know (community, orgs, etc.)

Station 1: Sustainability Plan (Holly)

Station 2: Green Network Plan (Amy)

Station 3: Baltimore Healthy Corner Stores (Jasina): Looking for input for BCHD Baltimarket (VSP, Youth Advocates) looking at Corner Stores and bringing healthy food options into corner stores (snacks under 200 cal, etc) – looking for foods to bring in, looking for vendors; inform technical assistance for corner stores; low-interest micro loans; grants; etc.; looking into neighborhood markets – stores that can move to being small grocers – get fresh foods, healthy options; corner stores are vital parts of Baltimore; what they look like can change

Station 4: Cylburn Food Systems Lab (Jesse): New manager of food system lab project; greenhouse dedicated to food production and different types of food production and the Cylburn Arboretum; from WI doing urban ag and education; find the best ways to provide educational opportunities; centerpiece is aquaponics system in recirculating water system and is being converted into an education focused project; host school field trips; open up brainstorming process to how it could serve the city